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**From:** Minter, Douglas [Minter.Douglas@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 6/20/2018 4:32:31 PM  
**To:** Bates, William [bates.william@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Bayer, MaryRose [Bayer.MaryRose@epa.gov]; Bahrman, Sarah [Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Permit Backlog Elimination  
**Attachments:** Copy of Backlogged UIC Permit Status June 2018.xlsx

Bill: as requested on the national UIC managers call today, attached is a snapshot of our backlogged applications as of 5/31/18. This includes any applications received to date for which a final permit decision has not been made within six months of initial receipt.

Douglas

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**From:** Garcia, Bert  
**Sent:** Monday, June 18, 2018 2:51 PM  
**To:** Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov>; Bloom, Judy <Bloom.Judy@epa.gov>; Diaz, Angelique <Diaz.Angelique@epa.gov>; Fish, Tonya <Fish.Tonya@epa.gov>; Garcia, Bert <Garcia.Bert@epa.gov>; Hamilton, Karen <Hamilton.Karen@epa.gov>; Kahn, Lisa <Kahn.Lisa@epa.gov>; Miller, Johanna <Miller.Johanna@epa.gov>; Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Darcy <oconnor.darcy@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Schmit, Ayn <Schmit.Ayn@epa.gov>; Spence, Sandra <Spence.Sandra@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Permit Backlog Elimination

OWP LT, see below. We'll discuss this at LT this week.

Don't forward this any further; we may see an email to staff about this soon.

Bert Garcia  
Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Water Protection  
U.S. EPA Region 8  
303.312.6670

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**From:** Scholten, Karly  
**Sent:** Monday, June 18, 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** O'Connor, Darcy <oconnor.darcy@epa.gov>; Garcia, Bert <Garcia.Bert@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Daly, Carl <Daly.Carl@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Permit Backlog Elimination

**Below is the email that Henry sent out about setting targets to eliminate permit backlog.**

**From:** Darwin, Henry  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2018 5:00 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Permit Backlog Elimination

As you know, EPA's FY 2019-2022 Strategic Plan establishes a goal of reaching all of EPA's permitting-related decisions within six months. The accompanying Agency Priority Goal (APG) sets a target of reducing by 50 percent the number of permitting-related decisions exceeding six months in FY 2019.

In setting up the metrics and measurement to enable us to track our progress toward our strategic measure and APG, we have learned that EPA's current backlog of new permit applications older than six months is about 240. While this is

only one part of the universe of “permitting-related decisions,” it is a very important part. Delayed decisions on new applications create unnecessary uncertainty for environmental projects, which often can have significant implications for the viability of the projects.

Given the importance of this issue and the relatively manageable size of this challenge, Administrator Pruitt has directed us to **eliminate the backlog of all new permit applications older than six months by December 31, 2018**. To accomplish this goal, national programs and regional offices will need to work together to set monthly targets that should be reflected on your bowling charts. I understand that workloads may need to be rebalanced, that some old processes may need to be streamlined, and that some new processes may need to be designed and implemented. Together, however, I am certain that we can rise to this challenge.

To ensure that you have the information, tools, and direction you need to meet this goal, I have asked Laura Gentile of the Office of Policy to join my team on a detail assignment. Over the last year, Laura has worked with many of you on improving permit processes. During her career, she also worked in Region 9 as a field inspector for hazardous waste and water programs and as an NPDES permit writer. Laura’s primary responsibility will be ensuring that you and your staff members are supported as you work to reduce and eliminate the new application backlog.

Thank you for your effort,

Henry